Problems due to fog

†132. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foggy conditions in Delhi alone led to loss of more than 18 crores of rupees in the first week of January itself;

(b) whether it is also a fact that problem of passengers have not yet lessened despite installation of many modern equipments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the arrangements being made by Government for the passengers stranded in the said situation at airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The losses were suffered by the Airlines mostly due to their inability to operate flights in lower visibility conditions.

(b) and (c) Primary runway at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport is equipped for CAT-IIIB operations. Airlines which have CAT-IIIB compliant aircraft and pilots are able to operate upto Runway Visibility Range of 50 meters. Flights of airlines which do not have CAT-IIIB compliant aircraft/ pilots are not able to operate in CAT-IIIB weather conditions, resulting in cancellation/delays/diversion of flights.

However, there have been improved information flow from airlines to passengers regarding delayed flights and better coordination between Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAL) and airlines which have greatly alleviated the problems. Airport-operators have also been advised to attend to stranded passengers in terms of better terminal facilities and flight information. The steps taken have cultimated in better fog-management this year.

(d) It is the responsibility of Airlines to look after their passengers including flying the stranded ones on improvement of weather or ferry them by alternate means of transportation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.